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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An electrolyte for a secondary battery comprising:
an aprotic solvent including an electrolyte salt;
an imide anion ~~anion~~ and a transition metal ion, which are contained in the aprotic solvent
and ~~[[, which]]~~ can form a metal complex on an anode at least through a charge-discharge process;
and
a compound comprising ~~containing~~ a sulfonyl group in the aprotic solvent.
2. (Currently amended) An electrolyte for a secondary battery comprising:
an aprotic solvent comprising ~~containing~~ a lithium salt as an electrolyte salt; and
a metal complex comprising an ~~made up of~~ imide anion and a transition metal ion, and a
compound having a sulfonyl group formed ~~contained~~ in the aprotic solvent.
3. (Currently amended) The electrolyte for the secondary battery as defined in claim 1,
wherein the compound having the sulfonyl group comprises ~~is~~ at least one compound selected
from the group consisting of 1,3-propanesultone, 1,4-butanedisultone, sulfolane ~~sulforane~~, alkane
sulfonic acid anhydride, a γ -sultone compound and a sulfolene compound.
4. (Currently amended) The electrolyte for the secondary battery as defined in claim 1,
further comprising: ~~wherein the electrolyte contains~~
at least one of vinylene carbonate and its derivative.
5. (Currently amended) The electrolyte for the secondary battery as defined in claim 1,
wherein the transition metal comprises ~~is~~ a lanthanoid metal.
6. (Original) The electrolyte for the secondary battery as defined in claim 5, wherein the
lanthanoid metal is selected from a group consisting of europium, neodymium, erbium and
holmium.

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7. (Currently amended) The electrolyte for the secondary battery as defined in claim 1, wherein the imide anion comprises ~~is~~ $-N(C_nF_{2n+1}SO_2)(C_mF_{2m+1}SO_2)$ ("n" and "m" are natural numbers).
8. (Currently amended) The electrolyte for the secondary battery as defined in claim 1, wherein the imide anion or its metal complex is included ~~contained~~ in the electrolyte in a range from 0.005 to 10% in weight.
9. (Currently amended) The electrolyte for the secondary battery as defined in claim 1, wherein the compound having the sulfonyl group is included ~~contained~~ in the electrolyte in a range from 0.01 to 10% in weight.
10. (Currently amended) The electrolyte for the secondary battery as defined in claim 1, wherein the aprotic ~~organic~~ solvent comprises ~~is~~ at least one organic solvent selected from the group consisting of cyclic carbonates, linear carbonates, aliphatic carboxylate esters, γ -lactones, cyclic ethers, linear ethers and their fluorinated derivatives.
11. (Currently amended) The electrolyte for the secondary battery as defined in claim 2 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein the lithium salt comprises ~~is~~ at least one lithium salt selected from the group consisting of $LiPF_6$, $LiBF_4$, $LiAsF_6$, $LiSbF_6$, $LiClO_4$, $LiAlCl_4$, $LiN(C_nF_{2n+1}SO_2)(C_mF_{2m+1}SO_2)$ ("n" and "m" are natural numbers).
12. (Currently amended) A secondary battery comprising:
a cathode and an anode; and ~~characterized in that~~
the electrolyte for the secondary battery defined in claim 1 ~~is used~~.
13. (Currently amended) The secondary battery as defined in claim 12, wherein the cathode comprises ~~is~~ a lithium-containing composite oxide which can occlude and release lithium.

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14. (Currently amended) The secondary battery as defined in claim 12, wherein the anode comprises ~~is made of~~ a material selected from ~~one component selected from~~ the group consisting of a material which can occlude and release lithium; lithium metal; a metal material which can form an alloy with the lithium and an oxide material, and ~~or is made of~~ a mixture composed of two or more of the materials.

15. (Currently amended) The secondary battery as defined in claim 14, wherein the material which can occlude and release lithium comprises ~~contains~~ carbon.

16. (Currently amended) The secondary battery as defined in claim 15, wherein the carbon comprises is graphite.

17. (Currently amended) The secondary battery as defined in claim 15, wherein the carbon comprises is amorphous carbon.

18. (Currently amended) The electrolyte for the secondary battery as defined in claim 2, wherein the compound having the sulfonyl group comprises is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of 1,3-propanesultone, 1,4-butanessultone, sulfolane ~~sulforane~~, alkane sulfonic acid anhydride, a γ -sultone compound and a sulfolene compound.

19. (Currently amended) The electrolyte for the secondary battery as defined in claim 2, further comprising: ~~wherein the electrolyte contains~~
at least one of vinylene carbonate and its derivative.

20. (Currently amended) The electrolyte for the secondary battery as defined in claim 2, wherein the transition metal comprises is a lanthanoid metal.

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21. (New) The electrolyte for the secondary battery as defined in claim 1, wherein said sulfonyl group comprises a group which is other than included in said imide anion and other than included in said electrolyte salt.
22. (New) A method of forming an electrolyte for a secondary battery comprising:
providing an imide anion and a transition metal ion in an aprotic solvent including an electrolyte salt; and
after said providing said imide anion and said transition metal ion in said aprotic solvent, dissolving a compound comprising a sulfonyl group in said aprotic solvent.
23. (New) The method according to claim 22, wherein said providing said imide anion and said transition metal ion in said aprotic solvent comprises one of:
dissolving an imide compound and a transition metal salt in said aprotic solvent; and
forming a metal complex comprising a transition metal ion and an imide anion, and dissolving said metal complex in said aprotic solvent.